



Rec'd PCT/PTO 31 MAY 2002

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Matter of the Application of: S. Kanbara, et al.

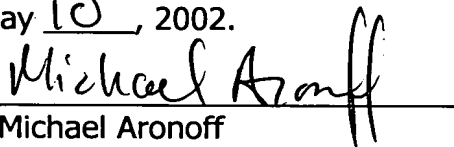
For: AN ACOUSTIC CONTACT DETECTING DEVICE

Serial No.: 10/019,587 Filed: December 20, 2001

Examiner: Unknown Group Art Unit: Unknown

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on May 10, 2002.

  
Michael Aronoff

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Sir:

In fulfilling the duty of candor and good faith, the following documents are hereby disclosed to the Patent Office in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56. It is not admitted that the information in the listed documents is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b). The Examiner is requested to consider the documents in the examination of this application.

An Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (PTO Form 1449) is submitted herewith, in duplicate, pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.97-1.98. The Examiner is requested to return an initialed and signed copy of the form once the documents have been considered. Please note the following particulars:

The enclosed statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

The following documents were cited by the Japanese Patent Office in the International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/JP00/04296 which is a counterpart for this application. The documents were cited in

10/019,587  
TPS014-US1

categories "Y" ("document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art") and "A" ("document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance"). A copy of the International Search Report is attached.

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Document Number</u> | <u>Author</u>                    | <u>Category</u> |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| WO             | 98/29853, A1           | Elo TouchSystems                 | Y               |
| JP             | 10-240443              | Daicel Chemical Industries, Ltd. | Y               |
| JP             | 06-324792, A           | Canon, Inc.                      | Y               |
| JP             | 56-137989, A           | Toppan Printing Co., Ltd.        | Y               |
| JP             | 09-295467, A           | Canon, Inc.                      | Y               |
| JP             | 04-136872, U           | FDK Corporation                  | A               |

In accordance with the notice published in the Official Gazette on November 23, 1993 (1156 OG 91), copies of these documents are not being submitted as Applicants believe that copies have been made available to the Examiner for the national stage application. If this is incorrect, Applicants will readily supply copies. These documents are, however, listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

The following documents were cited by the Japanese Patent Office in the International Preliminary Examination Report but not in the Search Report for International Application No. PCT/JP00/04296 which is a counterpart for this application. A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report is attached.



FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Document Number</u> | <u>Author</u>                      | <u>Category</u> |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| JP             | 61-193492, A           | Mitsubishi Petrochemical Co., Ltd. |                 |
| JP             | 61-129222              | NEC Corp.                          |                 |

The following additional documents are cited.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS


| <u>Country</u> | <u>Document Number</u> | <u>Author</u> |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| EP             | 354117, A1             | Thomson-CSF   |

Except as indicated above, a copy of each of the documents is being submitted.

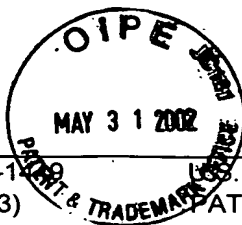
If a fee is due in connection with this communication the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or additional fee due in connection with this communication to Deposit Account No. 18-0560 .

Respectfully submitted,

S. Kanbara, et al.  
Applicants



Michael Aronoff  
Registration No. 37,770  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Phone: (650) 361-5979  
Facsimile: (650) 361-5623

FORM PTO-100 (Rev 8/83) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Atty. Docket No.:  | Appl'n No.: |
| TPS014-US1         | 10/019,587  |
| Applicant:         |             |
| S. Kanbara, et al. |             |
| Filing Date:       | Group:      |
| Dec 20, 2001       | Unknown     |

## US PATENT DOCUMENTS

| * Exr. initial | Document number | Date | Name | Class | Sub-class | Filing date (if appropriate) |
|----------------|-----------------|------|------|-------|-----------|------------------------------|
|                |                 |      |      |       |           |                              |
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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| * Exr. initial | Document number | Date     | Country       | Class | Sub-class | Translation enclosed (?) |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|---------------|-------|-----------|--------------------------|
|                | 0 354 117       | 02/07/90 | Europe        | B06B  | 1/06      |                          |
|                | WO98/29853      | 07/09/98 | International |       |           |                          |
|                | 04-136872       | 12/21/92 | Japan         |       |           |                          |
|                | 06-324792       | 11/24/94 | Japan         |       |           |                          |
|                | 09-295467       | 11/18/97 | Japan         |       |           |                          |
|                | 10-240443       | 09/11/98 | Japan         |       |           |                          |
|                | 56-137989       | 10/28/81 | Japan         |       |           |                          |
|                | 61-129222       | 03/25/88 | Japan         |       |           |                          |
|                | 61-193492       | 08/27/98 | Japan         |       |           |                          |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

| Exr. initial | Details of Document   | Translation enclosed (?) |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
|              | International Search Report for PCT/JP00/04296, dated 22 Aug. 2000.                 |                          |
|              | International Preliminary Examination Report for PCT/JP00/04296, dated 19 Oct 2000. |                          |
|              |   |                          |
|              |   |                          |

Examiner's signature

Date considered

\* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.